



Since 1957

SKIP

• December 1996

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet



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for your computer - p16

The Pentium Multi-Media Extension (MMX)
and the new CPU Landscape - p14

Take your kids to <http://www.north-pole.org/>

A screenshot of a Netscape browser window. The title bar reads "Netscape - [SANTA'S - HOME PAGE - www.north-pole.org]". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Go, Bookmarks, Options, Directory, Window, and Help. The toolbar contains Back, Forward, Home, Edit, Reload, Images, Open, Print, Find, and Stop buttons. The location bar shows "Location: http://www.north-pole.org/". Below the toolbar are links for "What's New?", "What's Cool?", "Destinations", "Net Search", "People", and "Software". The main content area features a dark background with several small Santa Claus icons. The text "HO-HO-HO- WELCOME TO SANTA'S HOME THE NORTH-POLE.ORG" is centered. Below it, "MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!" is displayed. At the bottom, there is a "COUNT DOWN" section with more Santa icons. The status bar at the bottom shows "Document: Done", "Start", "HP...", "Inte...", "Net...", "Co...", "Prt...", and "6:55 PM".

SKIP Web Page - <http://www.digital.net/skip/>

Snapshots

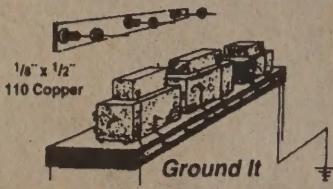
Another H-T QSO with Mir

Ed Tenhulzen, WH6CXQ, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, reports he worked Valeri Korzun operating on 145.55 MHz as R0MIR aboard the Mir space station on October 28. Ed was on his lunch hour at the time running 2.5 W to a Yaesu FT-208R and a mobile 5/8-wave antenna. Ed's friend, Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK, also worked R0MIR. As Ed commented: "As you can see, it doesn't take all that much muscle to work Mir. It just takes persistence."—Ed Tenhulzen, WH6CXQ

Youngest Extra redux

Responding to our recent news brief about Thomas Coffee, AC6XC, who got his Extra ticket at age 10, another proud papa—Mike Siegel, WB2FCP, in Staten Island, New York—reports that his daughter, Debra, N2SIJ, passed her Extra class test in June 1993, some two weeks before turning 10. Debra is the youngest member of an all-ham family. Her mother, Elaine, is N2GET. Her brother, Jeffrey, is N2IPU. "We were all very proud of Debra's accomplishments," Mike says.—Mike Siegel, WB2FCP

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Happy Birthday, Walter

Former CBS Evening News anchor Walter Cronkite,

KB2GSD, celebrated his 80th birthday November 4. Cronkite holds a Novice class ticket.

LMARS Special Event

The Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society (LMARS) is holding a Special Event on January 11 and 12, 1997 to honor teachers and ham operators who teach amateur radio to students in schools and the public wherever classes can be set up. This will be a first in this category and while they believe the reach will be U.S., Canada, So. and Central America, they hope to generate international interest. LMARS has contacted King Hussein and asked him to head up the European/Africa area. As of this writing, the King has not responded one way or the other.

The event will run from 1300 January 11th to 2100 January 12th on 3850, 7.24, 14.050, 21.350, 2m and CW on all bands. A certificate will be provided upon the receipt of an SASE sent to LMARS, PO Box 141353, Altamonte Springs, FL 32715.

Vanity update: The ticket's in the mail.

The FCC says hard copies of the November 4 grants were mailed on November 8 and November 12, so new call sign holders should have their new tickets soon. Unsuccessful applicants will get dismissal notices once the FCC works through its stack of WIPS—or works-in-process—those applications that need some kind of special handling. As many as 550 first-day applications ended up in the WIPS pile, either because the FCC was unable to match one of the applicant's call sign choices or because the application had other problems. Some of these were as simple as a date of birth on an application that was missing or failed to match one already in the FCC's database. Others included an incorrect call sign on an application, a name change not reported, or putting first and last name in the wrong order.

If you're in the WIPS pile for a reason other than "no match," a new call sign already may have been attached to your application. So far, there have been 3805 successful Gate 2 applicants. Many 1x2 call signs remain. As of this week, more than 6000 1x2

calls in all US districts remained available. The FCC has not said when it will process the approximately 1400 Gate 2 applications that were received after September 23, the opening day for Gate 2.

If your application is dismissed, you will have to apply to the FCC in writing to obtain a refund of your application fee. The FCC will not apply your first 30 dollar(s) filing fee toward a second application. You must request a refund if you want your money back.

-ARRL

W1AW schedule change

Starting January 1, 1997, W1AW will offer morning code practice and bulletins on Thursdays and Fridays only. Starting times will remain the same: code practice starts at 1400 UTC; the CW bulletins start at approximately 1500 UTC; and the RTTY/AMTOR/ASCII bulletin session starts at approximately 1600 UTC.—Joe Garcia, NJ1Q

NEWS

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Your Amateur Radio Tower & The Telecommunications Act of 1996

By Sherri Brower, N4XLF and David Brower, WA4NST

As a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 frequency spectrums have been auctioned, building & zoning regulations and deed restrictions need specific requirements if they regulate satellites TV dishes less than 39 inches in diameter. Cable TV, direct satellite TV and cellular phone companies are competing for your business, local government regulations for personal wireless services have certain requirements set by the FCC, and much more. What has all this got to do with your tower and antennas in the back yard? PLENTY!

Cellular telephone and other digital wireless services need towers and antennas. The range of these signals averages 5 miles so a lot of antennas are needed. The Telecommunications Act of '96 states local ordinances must not discriminate among wireless telecommunications providers, must not have the effect of prohibiting the services and must act on requests for personal wireless services facilities in a reasonable length of time. Local governments around the country are fearful that the blue skies in the distance will be filled with tall, unsightly towers and they are beginning to write ordinances that comply with the FCC rules but keep their municipalities beautiful.

Usually, when local governments think antennas and towers they don't make much distinction among the different types of "towers." Hence, Amateur Radio antenna sup-

port structures become some of the generic "towers." The mood at the governing bodies writing the new ordinances is short towers and many antennas per tower. As Amateur Radio operators we understand critical height of antennas, wind loads, antenna spacing and other concepts of antenna and tower construction. Local government officials understand the flood of tower applications from the commercial communications companies, neighbors who don't want to look at towers, and their obligations to the taxpayers. When the regulations are being rewritten Amateur Radio tower height and location is being looked at closely.

Most local government bodies will take a close look at the regulations regarding "towers" within the next year, if they have not yet begun to do so. The State of Florida has a "Government in the Sunshine" law which is helpful. All meetings must be publicly advertised. Keep a close eye on the Public Notices section of the newspaper and the publicized agenda for local Commission, Council, Planning & Zoning, Board of Adjustment, etc. meetings. If you have a contact in the local planning department(s) call them and inquire if there are any changes being considered to zoning regulations regarding communications towers and ask that your name be placed on a list of interested parties to be contacted if such changes are proposed. The earlier in the process that amateur radio has input the easier and the better the process works. Attend all the meetings you possibly can since you will be recognized when the issue comes be-

Continued on page 18



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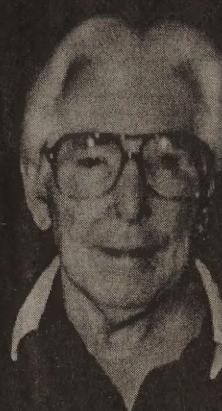
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From the Editor



Ed Roller, K4IA - Silent Key

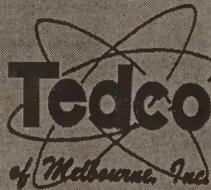
SKIP Magazine is saddened by the passing of Ed Roller, K4IA - long time Editor of the magazine's CW Column.

Ed was 88 years old and despite declining health in the last few months, he was absolutely punctual in submitting his column. We often discussed our mutual interests in Costa Rica, the Far East and of course CW. I treasure the conversation with Ed, several years ago, when he called to ask if he should mention his impending marriage in the monthly column. One can only imagine the twists and turns of that little chat.

*Give the Ham a
gift to treasure
and remember!*



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QCWA News

Hernando Chapter #140 - Eunice Gordon, W1UKR

The October meeting was held October 16th at Pier 688 in Brooksville with 16 members and guests present. Snowbirds have started to return.

Door prizes were won by Win, K1BUM and Andy, W4OVF. Win drew Andy's and Andy drew Win's. Andy is in the process of joining National and will become a member of the chapter. Another planning to join is Horace, K4JHZ. Hope to see them at the picnic and the next meeting.

Anniversaries for November are Will K6JWS and Bonnie KD6FIY, Chet W1HGK, and Ella, and Ron WA8DOI and Mildred KA8WKY.

One birthday, Ron WA8DOI.

Pelican Chapter #128 - J. Frederick Strom, K9BSL

The October meeting was held at Stacey's Buffet in the Tyrone Gardens Shopping Center. There were 21 members and guests in attendance. President Pickering KJ9N introduced Mr. James Aggeles of the Pinellas County Fleet Management Services. Mr. Aggels visit and talk had been arranged by Ralph Luedke K9MOR, our Program Development Chairman. Mr. Aggels talk was entitled "Your Car and Your Owners Manual".

Don Bice W4PCO reported a total of 43 picnic tickets sold as of 16 October. The nominating committee of Bill Bell K4AVH and J. Frederick Strom K9BSL reported nominations for 1997 officers: WA4OMG Buddy Morgan - President, WA4TOP Ken Johnson - VP, J. Frederick Strom K9BSL - Secretary and Don Bice W4PCO - Treasurer. Bob Kleiber KR8G will be Director to replace Eli Nannis K4JMH (SK) to expire 1997 and Alan Pickering KJ9N, Director to expire in 2001.

The President announced that we would have a free table at the Tampa Convention on November 23 & 24th. There will be a supply of caps, embroidered patches and decals for sale plus applications for the QCWA and Pelican & Gator Chapters.

Don Bice W4PCO reported that Fr. L. Charles Tardiff's W3EHG radios and car have been disposed of and he has returned home from his stay at St. Anthony's Hospital. K9BSL reported that WA9NII Owen had expired after a short illness on October 6th.

Marian Fox WA3Y Jr. reported that Hal Fox's W3AA (SK) call has been memorialized by the Franklin Science Museum in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. Hal's call and name will live on as long as the museum.

Gator Chapter #32 - Bart Bridge, W2ZYQ

The October meeting was attended by 26 members and guests. Jim Nelson of the Pinellas County Public Utilities, Waste-

Frank Obenauf, W2IAJ

water Treatment and Reuse Division spoke on the filtering and settling process used to purify wastewater.

Birthdays this month are; Ren and Mary Whatley WA4JVR, Bill Carpenter WA2KFH, Betty Swingle XYL of Joe W9DGW, Enis Appleton XYL of Doc K4RR and Hazel Bushell XYL of Bill VE3DXY. Anniversaries are Ren and Mary Whatley WA4JVR, Helen and Vincent Schauler WOMZX and Bob and Janice Lentz K4IJK.

Don Bice W4PCO reported that Dr. Bill Hazell W4TAD lost his son last month after a long battle with cancer. Ren Whatley WA4JVR spent a night in the hospital as a result of a slight stroke. Corinne Bridge XYL of Bart W2ZYQ spent a week in the hospital after tests showed a pulmonary embolism. Bea Nannis was two days in the hospital under observation for a heart condition.

President Bill Bell K4AVH reported on his attendance at the National Convention in Ottawa Canada. Other Gator members at the Convention were Wes W4COW and Blanche W4GXZ Randles, Eloise and Phil Winters KBTH, Janet and John Edel KBLBZ, Sylvia and Art Kunst W3WM and Hazel and Bill Bushell VE3DXY.

The results of the nominating committee report from Chairman Fred Leedham WIWOX were: President, Frank Obenauf W2IAJ, VP Don Bice W4PCO, Secretary Bart Bridge W2ZYQ, Treasurer Bill Carpenter WA2KFH, Director Art Monsees W4BK and Director Bill Bell K4AVH. There were no nominations from the floor. There being only one nominee for each office a vote was taken and the slate was elected. Installation will be at the December meeting.

Treasurer Bill Carpenter WA2KFH reported dues will remain at \$4.00. You must be paid up by the February meeting.

QCWA Convention - Ottawa

-by Bill Bell, K4AVH

Again QCWA has done itself proud. The 19% Ottawa Convention was well planned and efficiently conducted. The headquarters hotel was conveniently located in the downtown area of Ottawa within walking distance of many of the many point of interest in this Capitol City Of Canada. My XYL, Gerry, and I checked into the hotel two days before the opening of the convention and put on our walking shoes and had a wonderful time. We visited the Parliament Building, the National War Museum, the Currency Museum just to name a few of the places.

The Gator and Pelican Chapters were well represented: Bill Bushnell, VE3DXY, Phil and Eloise Winters K8KXT, Jay and Jackie Strom, K9BSL, (of the Pelican clan) and of course Wes, W4COW, and Blanch, W4GXZ, Randles of both Gator and Pelican.

At the Saturday night Banquet, Wes, W4COW, received the Roll of Honor Award and Blanch, W4GXZ, received the Member of the Year Award. These awards were well earned and we are grateful to them for their many years of services to QCWA and to amateur radio in general.

President Jack Kelleher, W4ZC, and Past-President Lew McCoy W1ICP, both presented arguments against reducing the code requirement for amateur license, and the Canadian Amateurs are much concerned about the commercial interests, particularly the inroads of LEOS, Low Earth Orbiting Satellites, which would use parts of the 2-m and the 70 cm bands. I was much impressed with the Canadian amateurs; they are an active and knowledgeable group.

An outstanding presentation was made by Gerry King VE3CK, on home brew antennas and towers. How about a 20 m Yagi with an 80 ft boom. Gerry recently moved into a rural area where he can experiment to his heart's content without having neighbors complaining about towers and huge rotating devices close by. Gerry has written a book on antennas which will be published soon.

If you did not attend, you missed a great time. We are looking forward to the convention in Kansas City next year. 73.

QCWA Soon Half Century Wireless

In September 1997, QCWA will celebrate a big birthday; the Golden Anniversary of the organization. To commemorate this August event, there will be Golden Anniversary QSO parties on February 8th and 9th, and March 8th and 9th. These parties differ in that they are open to the entire amateur fraternity. It will be an open contest between QCWA members and non-members but not open for non-members to non-members. Certificates will be awarded to those who are judged to be the first five places in a category of QCWA member and Non-QCWA member. The year will close with the annual National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.



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Florida Traffic Nets

Top Twenty Trafficers - Oct., 1996

-by AA4HT and WX4J

Total	Station		Station	Total	
1	W3CUL	1871	11	NR2F	336
2	WX4H	1580	12	KC4ZHF	326
3	W3VR	1480	13	WA4NDA	262
4	WA9VND	757	14	KB4WBY	251
5	K4SCL	661	15	AB4XK	201
6	KE4DNO	599	16	KD4GR	165
7	KA4FZI	528	17	WA4EIC	152
8	KA2YZM	524	18	KC4ZHN	149
9	W4DL	359	19	K4FQU	147
10	AA4HT	352	20	WV5Z	146



Meet Miss Phil, KA4FZI, Manager of the QFNS from Cape Coral. (Read her Net column this issue). Photo was taken by Dick Hill WA4PKF, S. FL SM, at the City of Palms Hamfest, traffic handlers luncheon in Ft. Myers March 1, 1986. In background is Eric WD4KPG.

From April 1986 issue, Florida Skip

QFN Report for October

QFN meets on 3651 KHz daily at 7 PM and 10 PM. Join us!

Stats : qni = 807, qtc = 632, qnd = 1272

While our QNI went down a little, the traffic was up 100 over last month with only a slight increase in time. Can we get any better? Why not help us by checking in this month?

The members of QFN extend deepest sympathy to Virginia Roller and the other members of the family of Silent Key, Ed Roller, K4IA. Ed had been a very active member of QFN for many years. He served not only as a handler for the Punta Gorda area, but also as an NCS and region rep. As Rip's QNC said, Ed was a real gentleman on the air and off. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing him in person as well as on the air will miss him with his great insight, interesting stories, perfect CW, and ability to copy at warp speed. The whole amateur community has lost a great operator.

73/88 Phil KA4FZI NM

Traffic Hounds - Oct. 1996

-by Kevin Bunin, WV5Z STM SFL

Net	QNI	Avg	QTC	Avg	SES	MGR	QTC/QNI
AIN	57	19.0	2	0.7	3	WA4ATF	0.04
BCEPN	177	29.5	5	0.8	6	KA2YZM	0.03
DEN	270	54.0	8	1.6	5	N4LTT	0.03
ENMC	158	19.8	8	1.0	8	KB4UEI	0.05
EPAN	740	26.4	45	1.6	28	N0UBW	0.06
FAST	524	8.5	172	2.8	62	KE4ESV	0.33
FMSN	315	10.2	83	2.7	31	KE4DNO	0.26
FMTN	315	10.2	186	6.0	31	KC4ZHN	0.59
FPON	230	7.4	56	1.8	31	WB4GCK	0.24
FPTN	1306	42.1	170	5.5	31	WN4IIV	0.13
GN	227	7.3	335	10.8	31	W4DL	1.48
MCAN	66	16.5	14	3.5	4	W3YWK	0.21
NFAN	1253	48.2	201	7.7	26	WA4NDA	0.16
NFPN	952	31.7	132	4.4	30	AD4BL	0.14
PBCEN	228	45.6	7	1.4	5	KE4CGQ	0.03
PBCTN	732	27.1	27	1.0	27	KE4CGQ	0.04
PCAN	NO REPORT					KD4EFM	
PCSN	97	19.4	1	0.2	5	KT4LL	0.01
QFN	807	13.0	632	10.2	62	KA4FZI	0.78
QFNS	220	7.1	145	4.7	31	KC4ZHF	0.66
SEFTN	1343	21.7	366	5.9	62	KD4GR	0.27
SFAN	86	14.3	2	0.3	6	KD4GR	0.02
SPARC	534	17.2	37	1.2	31	N4ZMQ	0.07
SVTN	680	22.7	127	4.2	30	KE4DNO	0.19
SWFTN	377	14.0	56	2.1	27	K4FQU	0.15
TPTN	759	12.4	205	3.4	61	NR2F	0.27
VCTN	307	10.2	111	3.7	30	KE4DNO	0.36
TOTAL			3133			Avg	0.25

QFNS - SLOW SPEED C.W.

TRAFFIC HANDLING/TRAINING NET.

QFNS was designed for the newcomer to C.W. and traffic handling. The Net meets daily at 8 p.m. EST on 3.715. Take advantage of it. Its free.

Statistics for October were down by a few stations, but the traffic jumped from 75 last month to 145. A significant increase. Great job gang. QNI 220 QTC 145 QND 721. 31 sessions. Many thanks to all that participated. Was surprised one evening with a check in from New London, Ct. Must have been good propagation.

Chas, KD40GV was out of town for a couple of weeks. Missed you Chas. Welcome back.

N4WLM, Fred, has been taking full advantage of our 48 message training program. I think he has received 46 of them to date.

As is evidenced by the traffic count for the month, we do handle traffic. Bring yours to the Net. We have reps to QFN and Late Fast. 73/88 Bob KC4ZHF - QFNS Net Mgr.

SEFTN Phone Net

The Southeast Florida Traffic Net picked up a few new members during October. Welcome to all. Hope you will find the Net interesting and informative and that you will pursue traffic handling.

Our Tuesday evening Traffic Tips (6:30 p.m. every Tuesday) went well with informative information from WV5Z and some of our local Net Managers giving details about their respective nets, i.e., KA2YZM, Asst. Mgr. Florida Midday Traffic Net, KC4ZHF,

Continued page 8

Knights of the Kilocycle

Charlie Stevens K8RIF, Silent Key

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating its 66th anniversary of operation. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. Since 1929 there have been over 540 memberships awarded to amateur operators. The Knights always welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net. And here goes the Knightly News:

The Knights report the passing of Former Master Oscillator, Charlie Stevens K8RIF of Lakeland. Charlie was 84 years old in August. Charlie was retired from the FAA and was a volunteer at the Lakeland Sun 'N Fun Annual Fly-In for many years. Until his recent illness, he was the Master Oscillator for the Knight of the Kilocycle.

The Knights welcomed new voices this month including: N4PS, Sam of Jacksonville, KA4SMD, Fred of Pompano Beach, W4AR, "C.H." of Key

Don Browne, KQ4YM

Largo, and KB4ESJ, Marvin of Augusta, Ga. who is member #512. Herb, AD4UA reports a squirrel in his attic recently and managed to lure the varmit with some peanut butter and take him down the road to live happily ever after.

Marian, KC4MFT of New Port Richey reports that Ernie, KA4BTQ of St. Augustine is sounding better and is talking with friends at 10 AM each Sunday on 3.910MHz. Friends are welcome to check in and say hello to Ernie! Andy, W4IYT of Miami Springs suggested that members report their membership numbers, date, and who the certificates were signed by in a new Knight's contest. One of the oldest certificates so far heard was that of Earl, W4AYD of Okeechobee who has certificate #154 signed in October, 1953 giving Earl over 43 years of membership in the Knights. Andy, another oldtimer, W4IYT has had his Knights certificate since May of 1957. Other old certificates include those of Wes, W4COW from March 1955 as well as Blanche, W4GXZ (who is the XYL of Wes.) Two of our regular checkin mem-

bers had fathers who were formerly Master Oscillators of the net. John, W4UGQ's father led the net in the early 70's and Gil, K4CQT father also presided in earlier years. Both John and Gil are now using their father's old call signs. John also reported having a run-in with some yellow jackets on his job, having a few fly up a pant leg. John's a surveyor in Pt. Charlotte and critters are an occupational hazard for John. Watch where you step, John! Doug N4SLS and Marian KC4MFT of New Port Richey are waiting on their citrus to ripen and looking forward to those breakfast treats of fresh juice and home-grown fruit. Herb, AD4UA has taken over the net Chaplain duties for George, W4MDV who has been ill. Dorothy, N4TXT of Springhill has been busy planting her staghorn ferns. Bob, W4KOG of North Palm has been checking in with his Tentec Scout since the recent lightning strike at his shack. He's now looking for a new Tentec with a little more power and a few of the members have been giving him some hints on a new rig. Bob reported recently that

Continued next page

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Statistics

KOTK - Cont. from page 7

he had looked over some Knights log sheets from back in the 50's and said that there were about 50 Knights checking in each Sunday back in those years. For those who have computers and internet access, please check out my web site at: <http://members.aol.com/browne>. Go to the ham pages to see Florida and Southwest Florida ham info, online callbooks and the latest Knights of the Kilocycle news as well as two QCWA chapter newsletters. We encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 AM, 3910 Kilocycles and let us know what's been happening in your area. We welcome all hams from anywhere that can hear us. Invite your out of state friends to listen in and call in Sunday morning. See you all on Sunday morning.

SEFTN - Cont. from page 6

QFNS Mgr. and KD4GR SFAN Net Mgr., and how traffic is routed thru the Nets.

We made our 109th consecutive month with over 1000 stations checking into the Net. Nr. 1000 for October was KF4IEV. Congratulations Jim. Your certificate will be in the mail shortly. Laura, WA9VND, our certificate designer, had a computer failure but her new machine should be delivered this week.

Our early session at 11:30 a.m. daily, is doing well. Appears that all of the NCS spots are filled, and the net participation has improved. Stats included 337 stations, 52 traffic and 366 minutes net time. 31 sessions.

Stats for the regular session included 1006 stations, 314 traffic and 1756 minutes net time during 31 sessions.

Its time to plan our semi-annual Picnic. Date to be announced. Location will be Veteran's Park in Lauderhill, on NW. 50 Street just west of University Drive. 12 noon until we finish. I think we will change the menu this time and have spaghetti with a home made sauce, salad, etc. Of course we will also have our awards presentations for various categories related to traffic handling on SEFTN. Plan on attending. The Saturday date will be announced on the Net.

We have again updated our "Traffic Handlers Guide". It now contains over 100 pages of Traffic Handling information. If you don't have a copy of the "Guide", contact Bob, KC4ZHF, for information on how to obtain your copy. You will not find a better source of traffic handling information. A must for the new Ham and an excellent reference source for the experienced.

Join us daily on SEFTN on the 146.79 repeater, serving Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. 73/88

Bob - KC4ZHF - Asst. Net Mgr.

NFL BBS STATS - Oct., 1996

Dave Sutherland / N4GMU

CALL	BUL	PERS	NTS	TOT
AA4RU	7445	615	9	8069
K4GBB	3534	273	14	3821
K4OZS				
KB4T	2790	266	7	3060
KE4COV				
N4GMU	3440	558	54	4052
KB4FEA	1921	80	1	2002
N4JTS	3125	152	9	3286
N0ZO	46	2897	46	3134
WB4NOD				
N8NEU				
WN4IIV	9667	731	3	10401
WX4J	43	284	107	354
W4WEB				
KC4HQS				

Total NTS traffic for NFL: 250

Need more BBS stats. Send it via E-MAIL if you wish.
((dave.sutherland@dibbs.com))

SFL BBS Totals - Oct., 1996

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
K0ZXF	0	195	3304	3499
K4VJI	7	771	8054	8832
KB4GBS			-NO REPORT-	
KB4VOL	21	645	6644	7310
KB4WUA	1	266	7341	7608
KC4YEK	0	233	4003	4236
KC6VAO	0	76	3806	3882
KD4GR	40	236	5758	6034
KD4INY			-NO REPORT-	
KD4MJV	24	713	6800	7537
KD4MZM			-NO REPORT-	
KD4UBZ			-NO REPORT	
KD4VAA	0	2	192	194
KD6ZZ	0	130	3906	4036
KE2IX	21	590	4879	5490
KE4BXF			-NO REPORT-	
KE4CRB			-NO REPORT-	
KF4BPX	0	482	6232	6714
KF4HFR	0	0	0	0
KF4OJ	0	0	0	0
KI4ZJ			-NO REPORT-	
KN4YT	16	771	7938	8725
KO4KS	9	1750	7500	9259
KP4EDL	0	498	6045	6543
KT4DI	1	291	4405	4697
N4AWX	0	796	4820	5616
N4HHP	206	4180	12910	17296
N4JOA	6	209	8538	8753
N4XEO	2	563	6911	7476
W4DPH	63	3235	5273	8571
W4MWP	2	287	7668	7957
W4OT	5	172	6881	7058
WA2LKI	17	1565	8065	9647
WB2WPA	4	202	4322	4528
WB4MOZ	5	466	7024	7495
WB4TEM	52	404	6954	7410
WB5LMJ	0	175	1689	1864
WD8IBY			-NO REPORT-	
WX3K			-NO REPORT-	

NTS TOTAL: 502

C'mon folks, these totals are IMPORTANT, especially with the current threat to our 2 meter and 440 bands. Let's show them that we USE them... or we might LOSE them!

If you have any questions, or need the software utilities to generate your BBS report, drop me a note with your name, address and size floppy needed. There's no charge. The utilities work with all types of bbs software, except TCP/IP (NOS.)

Remember, North Florida BBS's should send their reports to N4GMU @ N4GMU. South Florida BBS's to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL. Reports MUST be sent on the 1st covering BBS activity for the previous month. Please participate!

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL, ARRL Packet Manager South Florida.

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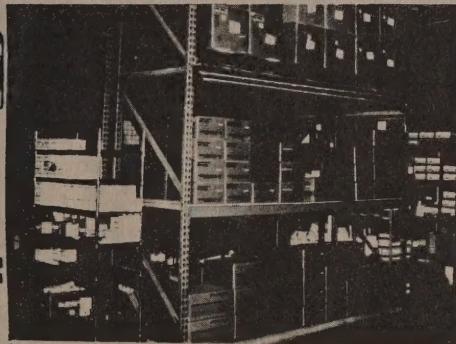
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- NYE VIKING
- SONY SECURITY
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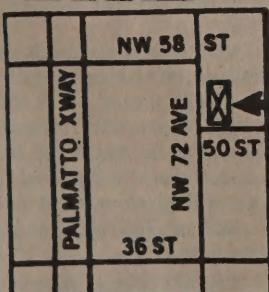


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Air Force MARS Report

What a busy year Region 2 has had! At the start of this year, we were anticipating many new changes and additional duties for the affiliates, and as of now, much of it has been instituted. We have had several changes to our operations, such as more message group count content, more training in emergency operations, a new training manual produced, more internet activity including a USAF MARS net page and more members becoming e/mail capable, and many other enhancing items that have been initiated. The coming year will also hold more new changes to further insure that MARS, as an additional emergency communications entity to several government agencies, as well as a means for military personnel to get messages to and from home, will continue to be an asset to the communities in all regions.

We anticipate the merging of Air Force, Army and Navy digipeaters on all services MARS nets. This is part of the new alignment of the services and it should prove to be a helpful move to expedite PACKET traffic on our VHF nets. There will be paperwork required prior to any active digipeter operation. We will be notified by headquarters accordingly.

The 3rd quarter participation report from Ron Pace, AFF2O, again reflects a very busy work load was performed by the region members, accumulating a total of 34,932 hours of work. There was a total region membership of 567 during the last quarter. The RMD and his staff are very pleased with this effort. We are fortunate not to have lost many members this past year, especially as silent keys.

Air Force MARS is still growing steadily. Over the last half-year we have gained many affiliates. We welcome the following new members: AFT2BJ, CROSSLEY, HAROLD E., DELAND, FL; AFT2BR, LARKIN, JAMES, LILBURN, GA; AFT2CA, HICKS, JAMES C., BLACKSBURG, SC; AFT2CB, VANCE, JOHNNY LEE, OMAR, WV; AFT2DI, BURGESS, BRIAN, FT. MYERS, FL; AFT2FA, HARMON, RICHARD A., 5370 QUEEN ANNE, BARTLETT, TN; AFT2FO, BAXTER, THOMAS L., DOUGLASVILLE, GA; AFTGK, HATLEY, SEYMOUR A., COCOA, FL; AFT2HA, HONAS, GARY L., CAPE CORAL, FL; AFT2HV, BRANCH, THOMAS P., PRATTVILLE, AL; AFT2IJ, ANTHONY, TED, LAKE ALFRED, FL; AFT2JJ, DRAPER, FRED, MEMPHIS, TN; AFT2LC, BROOKS, VINCENT, HIGH POINT, NC; AFT2LD, ISLEIB, HENRY W., GAINESVILLE, FL; AFT2LM, JACOBS, TIMOTHY M., PANAMA CITY, FL; AFT2LQ, KT4QH, NALLICK, MARK D., CHIPLEY, FL; AFT2LR, BAXTER, JEFFREY D., WINTER HAVEN, FL; AFT2MB, HENRY,

Carl Houston, Jr., AFF2P

DAVID M., SAVANNAH, GA; AFT2ME, FISCHER JR., THOMAS F., ULLOWHEE, NC; AFT2NG, MCQUEEN, JOHN A., SATELLITE BEACH, FL; AFT2NY, PERRAULT, JOEL LEE, ROBINS AFB, GA; AFT2PU, CARTER, JAMES S., PALM HARBOR, FL; AFT2QS, GRIFFIN, WILLIAM J., MEMPHIS, TN; AFT2QT, LETTERMAN, WILLIAM J., HOPEWELL, VA; AFT2RA, ZUEHL, JAMES M., TAMPA, FL; AFT2RI, HARLIN, TERRY G., TALLEVEST, FL; AFT2RT, HUDSON, ALLEN R., SATELLITE BEACH, FL; AFT2SI, ANDERSON, FRED R., SATELLITE BEACH FL; AFT2SL, POWER, WILLIAM E., PALM BAY, FL; AFT2SQ, POWER, KAREN ANN, PALM BAY, AFT2SZ, GRIMMETT, RONALD, SALT ROCK, WV; AFT2UH, CHAFFIN, JAMES C., ROBBINS, NC; AFT2UT, THOMPSON, JAMES A., WARNER ROBINS, GA; AFT2UU, SMITH, JOHN J., BIRMINGHAM, AL; AFT2VD, MURRELL, KENNETH W., APOPKA, FL; AFT2WS, SHIRK, WILLIAM E., WARNER ROBINS, GA; AFT2YE, GRANTHAM, FRANK A., LAWRENCEVILLE, GA; AFT2ZF, BARKER, JOHN F., DELTONA, FL; AFT2ZJ, ROWE II, LARRY W., HUNTINGTON, WV; AFT2ZP, KERNS, JAMES R., OLIVER SPRINGS, TN; AFT2ZR, KOTTMAYER, ALICE M., APO AP, VA.

Many of the above have finished their training successfully and are now active on 2S1 and other nets. Tom Taylor, AFF2T, has been very busy trying to get the others completed, but has been hampered with propagation problems and other minor difficulties.

1997-99 R2 APPOINTMENTS. The following appointments are for the period commencing 1 Jan 97 and effective thru 31 Dec 98. With few exceptions, most of the incumbent positions were unopposed. The region 2 selections are: RMD, Vic Carson, AFF2C (no change). SMDs: GA - William Little, AFA2MH; KY - Henry Taylor, AFA2IV; TN - Herbert Ploch, AFA2JC; VA - William Conaway, AFA2PA; WV - Alfred Heck, AFA2QQ. All other region 2 states have not changed. Congratulations to the new appointees and thanks to the continuing staff members.

Navajo Code Talkers

TRIVIA. We have talked about communications transmission security quite a few times recently, emphasizing how important it is and the complex measures taken to prevent interception of secret information. During any war, the edge that a military unit may have is gained by information gotten on the enemy's actions. A simple means of encryption and decryption to pre-

vent this was used by the U. S. in WWII, so simple that it confused the enemy completely. The Navajo Code Talkers took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, transmitting messages by telephone and radio in their native language—a code that the Japanese never broke.

The idea to use Navajo for secure communications came from Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajos and one of the few non-Navajos who spoke their language fluently. Johnston, reared on the Navajo reservation, was a World War I veteran who knew of the military's search for a code that would withstand all attempts to decipher it. He also knew that Native American languages—notably Choctaw—had been used in World War I to encode messages.

Johnston believed Navajo answered the military requirement for an undecipherable code because Navajo is an unwritten language of extreme complexity. Its syntax and tonal qualities, not to mention dialects, make it unintelligible to anyone without extensive exposure and training. It has no alphabet or symbols, and is spoken only on the Navajo lands of the American Southwest. One estimate indicates that less than 30 non-Navajos, none of them Japanese, could understand the language at the outbreak of World War II.

Early in 1942, Johnston met with Major General Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, and his staff to convince them of the Navajo language's value as a code. Johnston staged tests under simulated combat conditions, demonstrating that Navajos could encode, transmit and decode a three-line message in English in 20 seconds. Machines of the time required 30 minutes to perform the same job. Convinced, Vogel recommended to the Commandant of the Marine Corps that the Marines recruit 200 Navajos.

In May 1942, the first 29 Navajo recruits attended boot camp. Then, at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California, this first group created the Navajo code. They developed a dictionary and numerous words for military terms. The dictionary and all code words had to be memorized during training.

Once a Navajo code talker completed his training, he was sent to a unit deployed in the Pacific theater. The code talkers' primary job was to talk, transmitting information on tactics and troop movements, orders and other vital battlefield communications over telephones and radios. They also acted as messengers, and performed general duties.

Praise for their skill, speed and accuracy accrued throughout the war. At two

Continued on page 18

December 1996 ♦ SKIP

Army MARS Report

Lorraine S. Matthew, AAA9PR

This holiday season of 1996 still finds Army MARS supporting troops all over the world — troops deployed to such places as Germany, the Persian Gulf, Korea, and, of late, Bosnia and other related locations. Army MARS also offers the same support to military personnel and their families who are stationed in the United States. With all the publicity generated by overseas operations, some people have thought that the MARS programs did not include non-deployed troops. The MARS programs also serve retired military personnel from all the services. The only program offered uniquely to deployed Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force personnel are phone patches which must originate with the deployed person from overseas.

It is to encourage further support of all of these military personnel and their families that Army MARS again is sponsoring Operation: Holidays. This fifth annual Operation: Holidays is the program in which all Hams are encouraged to invite the public to share holiday greetings via radiograms. The public is invited to learn about the two fine radio message systems that are available free of charge. The National Traffic System (NTS) is available for civilian-to-civilian traffic while the MARS systems are to be used when either the receiving party or the sending party is an active duty military member. In both cases, the complete name and address of the recipient is required. The recipient's telephone number is required with NTS traffic and is highly advised for military recipients who are in the United States. The message itself should be 50 words or less. People are always surprised at how much they can say in 50 words. The radio operator who first receives the message from the sender will also need the name and address or telephone number of the sender. The MARS format includes the name and address of the sender. In either case, the operator may have to be able to reach the sender of the message at a later date. We ask that all radio operators make themselves known to their circle of friends and acquaintances as being this year's ambassadors of good will for the holidays. Let's have a real flow of holiday good wishes via radio this year.

In another example of the caring and sharing attitude that marks all of Army MARS services, Chief Army MARS, Bob Sutton was approached by local Boy & Girl Scouts units on Fort Huachuca, AZ asking for MARS assistance in the annual Scout Jamboree on the Air Program. A quick message went out to Army MARS which resulted in a success story for MARS and the participating Scouts. Florida Army MARS was well represented in this endeavor by Deacon Silsby/AAR4IY. He spent many hours on the air talking to scouts from all over the country and sup-

porting the effort on the MARS frequencies. The MARS support of this annual project was surprisingly widespread considering that Army MARS had only two days' advance notice. The request came in on the Thursday prior to the Saturday project. This is just another example of what Army MARS can accomplish on a very short notice. It is the effort of MARS members like Deacon who get the job done with efficiency and pride.

A Florida Skip subscriber from Hawaii sent me a note describing an action that was taken by Hawaiian Army MARS members in getting a job done. Their challenge was to get a voice message through to a net currently in progress with little or no propagation to that net. All of us are familiar with the propagation that we have "enjoyed" during the last few months. The Hawaiian State MARS Director, Bill Rhodes/AAM6HI, had a message to send to Mr. Billy Bateman on his final net before retirement. Mr. Rhodes was mobile in Honolulu. Jeff Childs/ABM6NY on Molokai connected with Bill on the MARS VHF repeater. Jeff then contacted David Bell/AAR9AQ in Arizona but the connection was too poor for message relay. AAA0USA at Fort Lewis, WA offered assistance, but could not read either HI station well enough. Ted Leaf/ABM6VO (the Skip subscriber) had good propagation with AAA0USA. Ted called Bill on the VHF repeater, acoustically coupled Bill to AAA0USA via HF whose operator then read the message to Mr. Bateman on the air on the net as planned. Thus within a few minutes, operators on the islands of Oahu, Molokai, Kailua-Kona, and in the states of Washington and Arizona were instrumen-

tal in getting the voice message through to its final destination in the few minutes that were available for the project. That VHF link was 160 miles across the ocean.

Florida Army MARS operators are also expert in voice message relay. I have personally been involved in relays from my station in Santa Rosa Beach to a station in Pompano Beach with a message going back to Pensacola. Thus the MARS "Can Do!" attitude is alive and well throughout the system. HF radio will remain the basic mode of operation in Army MARS in spite of the fact that the use of digital and other electronic means of communication is continually increasing. The prime necessity for people to be able to talk to each other in times of emergency is well recognized. Yes, e-mail and other high tech modes do move large masses of data far more quickly and in a hard copy format. However, these modes are single channel modes which, if interrupted in any way, can fail. This failure can be as minor as someone forgetting to check his messages and as major as a transmitting channel failing thus losing all the messages that are already in the channel. Voice networks are multi-channel. If one route fails, there is always an alternate path to follow. In the new regional networks that are being established, someone, somewhere, will be able to relay the information or message to someone else and on and on until the destination is reached. Hawaii operators scored their version of a home run with the assistance of operators in two CONUS states. As the reporting Hawaii operator said, "Our training paid off."

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INTERNET UPDATE

City Specific Radar From The Weather Channel

The Weather Channel is introducing new features to its Web site that will provide better local and regional forecasts. A new Java-based system allows users to quickly navigate to the NEXRAD (Next Generation Weather Radar) Doppler radar for their area. Time-lapsed satellite photos are also being added to the new service. The images are updated every 30 minutes. World Wide Web: <http://www.weather.com/>

News From Mongolia

Without the Internet it's difficult to imagine where you could get this type of information — a daily news bulletin from Mongolia. You can receive this by e-mail, with an option for daily or weekly news bulletins, or take a look at the Web version. To subscribe to the e-mail version send a request, in plain English, to the address below. This site also has the distinction of becoming the first Mongolian domain name listed in Internet Update. E-mail: ganbold@magicnet.mn World Wide Web: <http://www.magic.mn/dnews/index.html>

World Internet Access Providers

The Directory is a database of Internet Access Providers (IAPs) around the world. It includes 5,700 different IAPs, making it the largest available, say those behind the system. The popular "The List" directory is currently advertising less than 5,000 listings, so this could well be the largest directory online. World Wide Web: <http://www.vni.net/thedirectory/>

Wired Magazine - NEW

Wired Magazine, either loved or hated by network users, has started a new computer news section on its Web site. Several headline news stories, from the areas of internetworking and issues at the edge of the digital frontier, are issued each day written by a special team or writers at the magazine. World Wide Web: <http://www.wired.com/>

International Slang Dictionaries

For a complete guide of things not to say when on holiday, check out the International Slang Dictionaries Web site. You'll find many entries in common languages such as German and Spanish, and even entries in less common languages like Hawaiian, Welsh, and Nepali. World Wide Web: <http://www.notam.uio.no/~hcholm/altlang/>

US Local Crimes Data

The Social Sciences Data Center has a new data access tool available at its Web site. From here, visitors can access US county-level crimes and arrest data from the uniform crime reporting system. The data was obtained from the national archive of criminal justice data and currently covers 1990 to 1993. Updates are promised everytime new data becomes available. World Wide Web: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/socsci/crime>

The Consumer Super Site

Consumer World is an award-winning complete catalog of consumer resources on the Web. Almost everything is here, from automobiles and low rate credit cards to product recalls and mortgage rates. A search engine allows fast access to the site. World Wide Web: <http://www.consumerworld.org/>

101 Uses for Your Old Shoes 'n Other Stuff

Especially for the 1990s, when the 3R's mean Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, this site offers lots of information on

home recycling and what to do with things you can no longer use. Some of the things covered include books, magazines, appliances, cameras, furniture, garden furniture, sports equipment, toys, and computers. You can send your tips and ideas and also browse through a resource directory. World Wide Web: <http://www.knocco.com/Shoes/index.html>

Live From Dallas

The amount of things available to RealAudio users just gets better and cooler everyday! AudioNet is now offering live Internet relays of Dallas/Fort Worth air traffic control and the Dallas Police Department. If you don't have the software, you can download it free and then get access to many other audio sources including radio, TV, or music. World Wide Web: <http://www.audionet.com/>

Index of Computer Prices

The Computer ESP Web site is offering an index of prices for computer hardware from cyberstores in the US and Canada. The makers describe the site as similar to search engines, such as Excite and InfoSeek, with a total database of 250,000 prices and 50,000 products. World Wide Web: <http://www.uvision.com/>

Multimedia Beethoven

If you love Beethoven, take a look at this site! It's an online encyclopedia to the great composer and his work. Highlights of the site include complete explanations of his symphonies one through nine. There are also pages devoted to his life, a quiz about him, links to other Internet sites, and more. World Wide Web: <http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/1636>

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez

Here you can find a complete Supreme Court online resource. In addition to the text resources, RealAudio clips of many of the most famous, and infamous, moments are online or planned. The site authors say their objective is to provide information about major constitutional cases heard and decided by the Supreme Court. A "What's New" section provides quick updates to recently added recordings and clips already online can be browsed by party, subject, or date decided. World Wide Web: <http://oyez.at.nwu.edu/oyez.html>

E-mail Access To The Web Updated

A collection of guides to accessing the World Wide Web by e-mail have been updated. New guides have been added explaining how to run newsgroup searches via Dejanews, and revisions have been made to the guide for MetaCrawler. If you have e-mail-only access, or terminal access, to the network, these are some great guides. They can be retrieved by file transfer protocol or e-mail autoresponder. Anonymous FTP: <ftp://ftp.netcom.com/pub/gb/gboyd> E-mail: infomart@acy.digex.net Message Subject: send index

Second E-mail Access Guide Updated

A second guide to access to the Internet by e-mail has also been updated. Updated sections include those on search engines, decompressor programs, Unix decoder software, Internet service providers, services just for fun, information on finding addresses, and the WwwFetch E-mail gateway which sends Web pages by e-mail. E-mail: infomart@acy.digex.net Message Subject: send email4u

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The Pentium Multi-Media Extension (MMX) and the new CPU Landscape.

Intel is making a departure from its traditional processor upgrade route with the Pentium and Pentium Pro chips. With the competition nipping at their heels, let's see what they're trying to do.

The Pentium chip was developed as a replacement for the 486 processor and has delivered on all accounts. The Pentium chip roughly doubles performance at the same clock rate over a comparable 486 running at the same clock rate. They achieve this performance upgrade with internal and external improvements. Internally, the Pentium can execute the same instruction in fewer clock cycles than a 486. Externally, the Pentium bus runs at 50,60 or 66 megahertz and grabs data at a whopping 64 bits at a time. The fastest 486/50 ran with a 50 megahertz bus but was unreliable. All current versions of the 486 run at 33 or 40 megahertz and only support a 32 bit bus. The Pentium bus also added support for synchronous pipeline burst cache, a feature not supported on 486 boards.

20

When the Pentium was released, Intel fully expected the new motherboards to displace the 486 much the way the 386 chip was dispatched. Although you can still buy enhanced 486 devices from Cyrix and AMD, Intel does not really market 486 devices except as replacements. The 486DX4-100 was the fastest part Intel ever made.

The Pentium Pro is a different story. This part incorporated secondary cache in the package to improve performance but now executes only 32 bit code natively. All 16 bit code such as DOS and Windows 3.1 and even parts of Windows 95 is emulated in the Pentium Pro. An emulator intercepts these 16 bit instructions and converts them into a series of 32 bit instructions before they are executed. The conversion slows this part down such that it generally runs DOS and Windows slower than a comparable Pentium.

So why even sell it? The Pentium Pro really shines when running a full 32 bit operating system and applications. These include Windows NT,

Steve Iezzi, KT4FY

Solaris and Linux. In fact, the big vendors only ship Windows NT with their Pentium Pro boxes. The Pentium Pro was designed and targeted to business customers. The motherboards cost more and the Processor costs more also. Business users rarely need DOS anymore and they would be most likely to pay the money for a Pro over a Pentium.

As a rule, I recommend running Windows 95 as a home operating system as Windows NT offers little DOS support and no way to exit fully to DOS prompt. For Amateur applications, this OS would be useless as most logging software radio control programs still prefer DOS. So for the common folk, a fast Pentium is a good choice for a home box.

Cyrix and AMD offer some excellent competition for the Home box. The Cyrix 686 and the AMD K5 both incorporate Pentium Pro features but with an added twist. Both Cyrix and AMD spent more time on their 16 bit code emulators. As a result the competition will outrun the Pentium at the same clock rate for less money. AMD devices in particular are an incredible deal. The K5-100 will outrun a Pentium 133 and the street price for the chip is \$80 versus \$230 for the Intel P133. The Cyrix and AMD devices do run hot so you need a good CPU fan, one with ball bearings, and a stout 3.3 volt power supply. Look for a big heat sink on the motherboard or a switching power supply (with a hefty switching coil) for these chips.

In home systems, games are traditionally the applications that demand the most of your computer. Even complex antenna calculations with MiniNec fly with a Pentium. Game players would be the target customer for the next family of fast computers and these are the customers that AMD and Cyrix are winning over today.

What will Intel do?

Intel is ready with MMX (Multi-media Extension).

The MMX Pentium will incorporate many of the

new features developed for the Pro such as speculative branching and out of order execution plus a built-in multimedia processor for gaming. Intel is claiming a 400 percent improvement in gaming performance running MMX over a conventional Pentium, not to mention a Pentium MMX will be faster than a comparable speed Pentium on everything else as well. The Pentium MMX was designed specifically for the gaming market and here is where it excels.

MMX sounds great, doesn't it? Intel is definitely addressing the home market with faster gaming and competitive performance but what about price???

Pricing has not been announced for the MMX series but I suspect Intel will charge more money for the MMX chips than a comparable speed Pentium. In addition, MMX chips will use a new voltage for part of the logic. Since motherboards built before July of '96 didn't know of this requirement, they won't support MMX without some sort of adapter.

Intel will solve the adapter issue with older motherboards by adding a line of MMX Overdrive chips. Overdrive chips will provide voltage translation and jumper configuration for MMX in a standard Pentium socket. Overdrive chips solve the upgrade problem but have always been a costly solution. Overdrive chips are always priced high enough that it would almost pay to buy a brand new motherboard. For those of you who purchased from a big name vendor with custom motherboards, Overdrive will be your only upgrade path.

If you love to play 3D interactive games, then the MMX is for you. Stay tuned for further developments.

Steve

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Flamingo Net News

Miami, Florida

The Flamingo Net, in cooperation with the University of Miami Amateur Radio Club, held its second semi-annual free Tail-Gate Swap Fest on Saturday, October 5 and again on the 12th. Despite rain on both dates (tropical storms Josephine and then Kyle), 20 sellers were present. Hank, KC40LR, felt that it was a success as he sold about as many goodies as he bought. The U.M. repeater (146.865) used for talk-in was down for portions of each date: first due to a power outage throughout the Engineering Building; next due to the U.M. cleaning crews unplugging it. Candido, N4BKZ, and George, KD4WET, were able to keep it going most of the time! We would like to thank the KD4BBN repeater group for letting us use the 146.760 machine when the U.M. repeater was down. The next Swap Fest is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 1997 at 8:00 A.M. The Swap Meet may be reached by going east on Miller to the campus, then north on San Amaro for five blocks.

Don't think that DX is dead on the 10 m band during this sunspot minimum. The Flamingo Net "Max Miles per Watt" on-the-air contest was won by Paul,

WA4BAO, on October 5th with a contact to Argentina using 5 watts. I'm sure he will enjoy the multimeter he won! Second place went to Val, KA4KVF, who worked South Africa with 10 watts.

The annual Net Dinner took place on Sunday October 27th. Our senior member in attendance was Walt, W4DWN, who has been with the Flamingo Net since 1953. During dinner, Linda, KD4VIN, suggested this article for submission to Florida Skip.

For those not familiar with the Flamingo Net, it was founded in 1952 as a ten meter social net. We meet every Friday night at 7:30 PM on 29.044 MHz and QSY to 28.444 MHz at 8:00 PM. Two meters is also monitored for check-ins between 7:45 and 8:00 PM : 147.210, 146.910 and 146.865 repeaters are checked in that order. Net activities include on-the-air contests, 10 meter and 2 meter transmitter hunts (one is scheduled for the Hamboree in February so be sure to bring your 2 m handheld!), Swap Fests, BBQ / Picnic every April in a local park, assisting during Hamboree (usually helping in the RV area) and a Pay For What You Eat Dinner every October (weekend before Halloween) at a local restaurant.

Hope to hear you check-in or see you at one of our activities! Bill Moore, WA4TEJ

FTC to Investigate Online Privacy

The Federal Trade Commission has been asked by three U.S. Senators to investigate online privacy and report back to Congress with recommendations. The senators, Richard Bryan (D-NV), Larry Pressler (R-SD) and Fritz Hollings (D-SC), who sit on the Senate Commerce Committee, sent the letter on October 8.

The letter asks the FTC to conduct research into online privacy issues in the wake of the controversy over the LEXIS P-TRAK database. The FTC had originally requested legislation to address the issue.

The letter requests that the FTC "investigate the compilation, sale, and usage of electronically transmitted data bases that include identifiable personal information of private citizens without their knowledge." The FTC will focus on the rights of users and possible abuses in online databases; its report is due in six months.

A copy of the letter to the FTC and more information on P-TRAK is available at:

<http://www.epic.org/privacy/>
-Electronic Privacy Information Center

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Assorted Gimmicks, Gizmos, and Gadgets

There are some of us who are obsessed with the correct time. When I say correct time, I don't mean plus or minus a few minutes, but right down to seconds. Amateur radio operators seem to be afflicted with this obsession more than others probably because they have easy access to and a tendency to check the Universal Time Ticker on their rigs.

I'll bet there are more than one of you that have gone through the time-setting drill, listening to 4 or 5 cycles of the voice on the radio d r o n i n g , "The time at the tone will be". At the precise instant one hears that first click, one pushes the stem in on the watch or quickly plugs in the battery on the quartz ham shack clock. More often than not, one discovers the minute hand off and when

trying to quickly adjust it, the second hand makes unusual backward or forward leaps. On the next cycle, Miss UTC tells you that you are a full 17 seconds off. By then you've forgot what the precise minute was and besides, the second hand is off. Now you must listen to at least one more announcement to get setup for another setting drill. It is then that one learns how eternally long a minute can be.

The arrival of computers has complicated the time-setting drill since one is confronted with up/down buttons that require dexterity with a mouse and accurate keyboard punching. It is wise to read your clock-setting help file thoroughly before synchronizing your computer clock with UTC. If you do not perform the proper function at the assigned click, you'll find things like the month changed, the year incremented, the time reset to 0 hours 0 minutes 0

seconds. I've done them all at one time or another. Meanwhile, each trial and each error requires you to wait another eternal minute for the voice message from Madame UTC. Setting the clock in DOS or Windows is another agony I'd like to forget.

The times that try men's souls and mess with your blood pressure are over - at least for Internet users. I stumbled across a handy-dandy automatic computer clock synchronizer while researching an article on SCPC

stalled and configured, there isn't a whole lot more to do with it except to occasionally view the control panel to see how much correction your computer clock required. (Refer to illustration). As you can see, my computer is definitely not equipped with an internal atomic clock given the recent reading of 1287.184 seconds/day of clock drift.

Tardis is a program that corrects your PC's clock. It is used where your PC is connected to a remote machine

by TCP/IP, SLIP, or PPP. A typical use would be to synchronize the clock on starting a SLIP/PPP connection to an Internet provider. Another would be to have it running all the time in a LAN environment correcting the clock once an hour.

Tardis

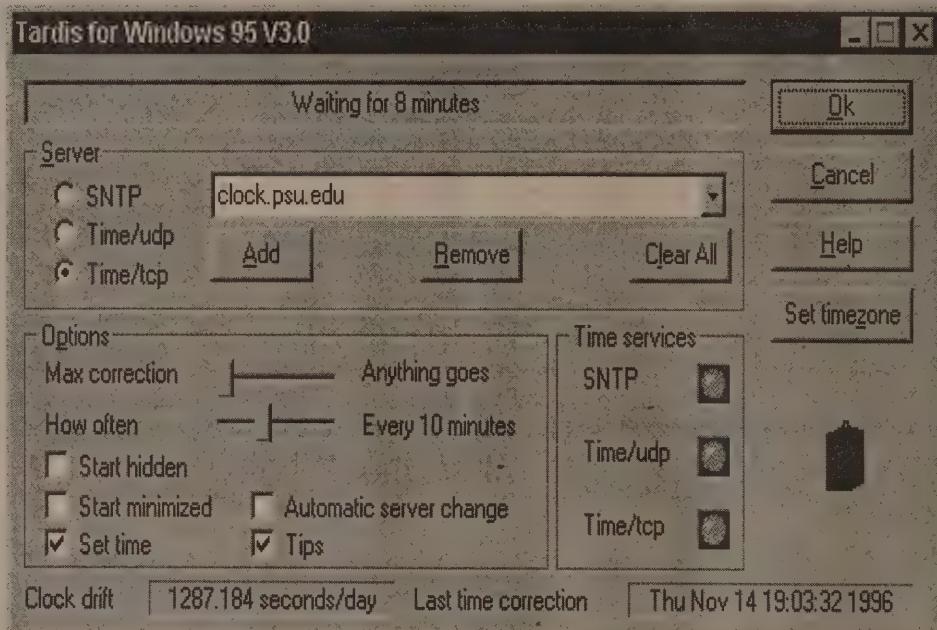
now provides many time servers as well as time clients. I use "clock.psu.edu" mainly because I know it works.

Installation is simply a matter of unzipping the file and saying OK to install. Since the SAFE program generated so much interest several months ago, I will extend the same offer for Tardis. *Send me a blank disk and Self Addressed Stamped Envelope and I will give you a copy of both the Windows95 (157K) and regular Windows program (87K) so you can install the program that suits your computer.*

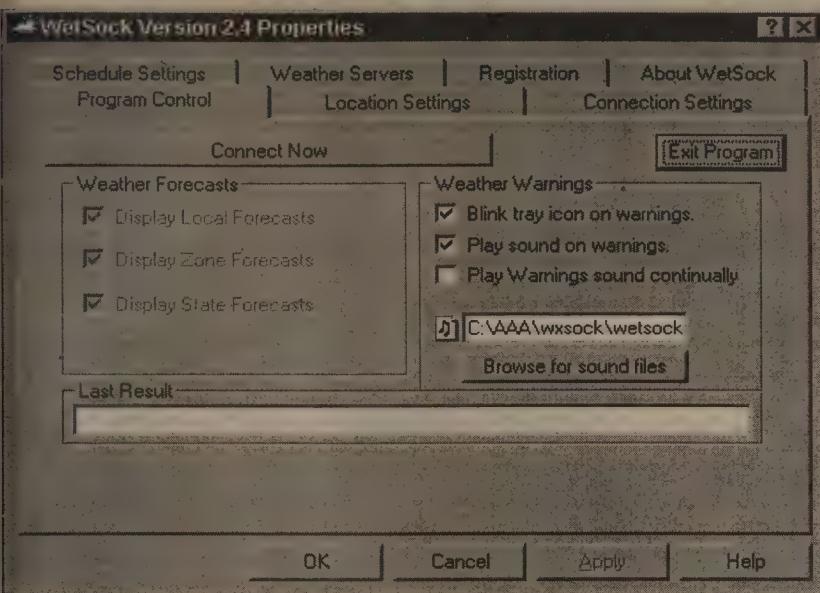
Since the program is shareware, it has a few annoyances and a few (very few) disabled features. Be nice and register the program with H.C. Mingham-Smith, 33 Arthur Rd., Wokingham, Berks, RG112SS, England. Only 20 bucks.

(Single Channel Per Carrier) radios. Figure that one out! Without going into gory details, I have this special search software that utilizes all the search resources on the net for specific information. It's much like Lexis/Nexis used by journalists to find out screwy information like how many times the word extremist has been associated with the Christian Coalition or Gingrich or how many thousand times Clinton has mentioned "bridge". Anyhow, sometimes searching for a topic digs up weird or totally irrelevant subjects. Once while looking for information on new RA sound software, I got pictures of contestants in the Miss Aloha Pageant in Hawaii.

Back to the time synchronizer - it is Tardis for Windows 95 V3.0. It is also available for non-Windows95 users. For purposes of discussion, I will refer to the "95" version. Once Tardis is in-



for your Computer



WetSock version 2.4 by Locutus

WetSock version 2.4 by Locutus Codeware is another nifty gizmo to add to your computer. Unlike the Tardis time synchronizer discussed elsewhere, WetSock is something you can mess with every once in awhile to allay your guilt of adding another program that consumes 1.74 Mb of your valuable disk space.

WetSock brings the current weather conditions and forecasts to your desktop with negligible Internet Service Provider charges. WetSock uses the integrated services of Windows95 to connect to Internet and to update your weather information for your locale, making it foolproof to set-up and use.

The program sleeps in the background until you connect to Internet and it will then gather weather information. It grabs the weather info when you merely connect to get your e-mail. If you like, you can have it check periodically should you deem necessary.

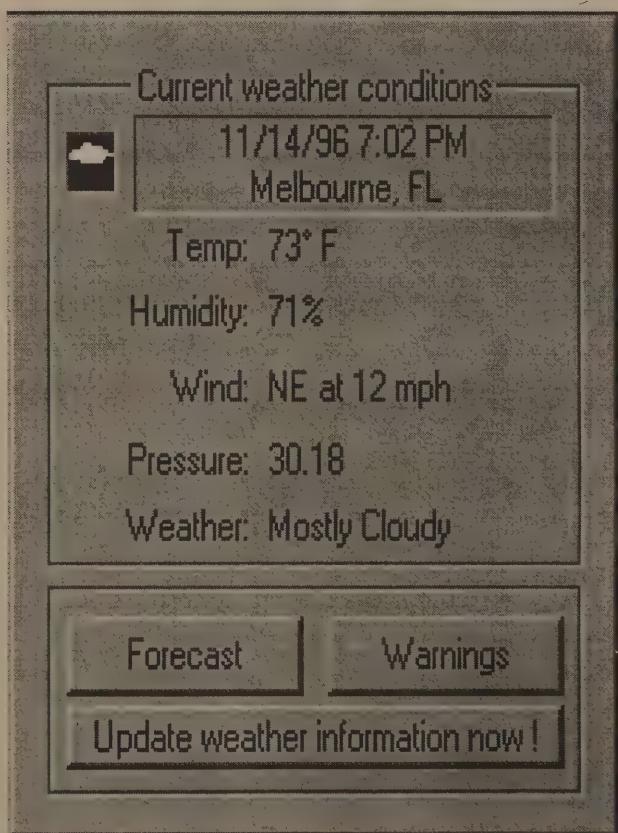
Installation is fairly simple; unzip, right-click on wetsock.inf, and install. After installation one can set it up as you like.

WetSock installs an icon on the taskbar tray for obtaining weather details. Placing the mouse pointer over the icon will reveal current conditions (i.e. Partly Cloudy-74). Right clicking the icon brings up the properties menu and in registered versions tells you the last result and provides for audible alarms for bad weather conditions. See illustration above.

A right click gives you the current weather conditions for whatever locale you specify; usually your own. See illustration at right. You can read details of current forecast and warnings by clicking on the appropriate bar.

The program will obtain weather information almost instantly when one connects to Internet, checks e-mail, etc. If you like, you can configure WetSock to check periodically. However, one constraint of the unregistered version is that you only are allowed three checks per day.

One can register the software by sending \$12.00 to Locutus Codeware, 1886 W. Broadway, #303; Vancouver, BC; V6J 1Y9; Canada. Send me a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope containing a blank disk and I'll send you a copy (673K). BEAR IN MIND - I only have the WetSock for Windows95.



AFMARS - cont. from page 10

Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, declared, "Were it not for the Navajos, we would never have taken Iwo Jima." Connor had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock during the first two days of the battle. Those six sent and received over 800 messages, all without error.

The Japanese, who were skilled code breakers, remained baffled by the Navajo language. The Japanese chief of intelligence, Lieutenant General Seizo Arisue, said that while they were able to decipher the codes used by the U.S. Army and Army Air Corps, they never cracked the code used by the Marines. The Navajo code talkers even stymied a Navajo soldier taken prisoner at Bataan. (About 20 Navajos served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines.) The Navajo soldier, forced to listen to the jumbled words of talker transmissions, said to a code talker after the war, "I never figured out what you guys who got me into all that trouble (with the Japanese) were saying."

In 1942, there were about 50,000 Navajo tribe members. By 1945, about 540 Navajos served as Marines. About 400 of those trained as code talkers; the others serving in other capacities.

The Navajo Code Talkers Dictionary.... When a Navajo code talker received a message, what he heard was a string of seemingly unrelated Navajo words. The code talker first had to translate each Navajo word into its English equivalent. Then he used only the first letter of the English equivalent in spelling an English word.

Thus, the Navajo words "wol-la-chee" (ant), "be-la-sana" (apple) and "tse-nill" (axe) all stood for the letter "a." One way to say the word "Navy" in Navajo code would be "tsah (needle) wol-la-chee (ant) ah-keh-di-glini (victor) tsah-ah-dzoh (yucca)." As shown below, most letters had more than one Navajo word representing them. Not all words had to be spelled out letter by letter. The developers of the original code assigned Navajo words to represent about 450 frequently-used military terms that did not exist in the Navajo language. Several examples: "besh-lo" (iron fish) meant "submarine," "dah-he-tih-hi" (hummingbird) meant "fighter plane" and "debeh-li-zini" (black street) meant "squad." The spoken words were probably enough, but they also phonetically phrased some text using generic words to their culture, such as: A. "Wol-La Chee" (Ant) "Be-La-Sana" (Apple) "Tse-Nill" (Axe) B. "Na-Hash-Chid" (Badger) "Shush" (Bear) "Toish-Jeh" (Barrel) C. "Moasi" (Cat) "Tla-Gin" (Coal) "Ba-Goshi" (Cow), and a complete alphabet as such.

The contribution that this made to the war effort probably saved untold lives, and shows how beneficial the native Americans were to the success of the program.

AIM HIGH!

DISCLAIMER: This is not an official United States Air Force release, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Air Force or the MARS.

Upcoming Computer Shows

Dec. 7/8	Miami	Coconut Grove Convention Ctr
Dec. 14/15	Ft. Lauderdale	War Memorial Auditorium
Dec. 21/22	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds
Dec. 28/29	Melbourne	Melbourne Auditorium
Jan. 4/5	Tampa	Florida State Fairgrounds
Jan. 11/12	Jacksonville	Jacksonville Fairgrounds Show Hours: 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Exhibitor Information: Phone (301) 984-0880		

Tower/Telecommunication - cont. from page 3

fore a board that can vote on the changes. (We were actually given an introduction by the chairman of the Planning and Zoning board and an acknowledgment by the Director of Planning at a public hearing because we had attended earlier meetings and provided input).

Hopefully, your county or municipality will exempt Amateur Radio from the definitions of communications towers. But if they don't here's some helpful thoughts:

When you address any of these government bodies smile, be polite and thank them for their time, of course. Be sure to offer simple concise comments and a "solution" if you have a "concern" (*We have found the word concern works better than "problem" or "disagreement"*). At the public meeting get all available Amateur Radio operators there and if you have an ARES/RACES uniform wear it - it shows unity and support. Limit the number of speakers and coordinate your speeches so you don't repeat items. Refer to the federal preemption of PRB-1 and Florida Statute 125.0185 regarding "minimum practical regulation" and "reasonable accommodation" and be sure to have a copy of these with you. Play up the Public Service aspects of Amateur Radio, MARS, any proclamations you were given for public service; Field Day, or Amateur Radio Week. Letters to the editor are widely read and we have included a sample. Don't turn down a local radio talk show invitation since they often have a large audience. Both the letter to the editor and the radio show are also a good way to recruit new Hams.

To the editor:

In response to (*article or editorial about commercial towers with a reference to Ham Radio*), please consider this: Most amateur (Ham) radio antennas are placed on shorter towers in the radio operator's back yard. Cost, property size and the specific type of ham radio communication determines the height of these towers. Ham radio is a voluntary service and these trained operators spend their personal money for the towers, antennas and equipment. They are not part of the multimillion dollar businesses that are asking the (*county/city*) for permits for 300' towers. Because of the voluntary nature of ham radio and the public service provided there are different restrictions placed on ham towers than on commercial towers.

Ham antennas for critical communications involving FEMA, Red Cross, and County Emergency Management are often placed atop buildings and tall commercial towers. Communications towers are defined as the support structure including the antennas whether the support structure is a building or a steel tower.

Even with today's communications technology, amateur radio is essential. When TWA Flight 800 crashed off Long Island thousands of rescue workers and members of the press overloaded the cellular phone frequencies. Hams stepped in to provide communications for the Red Cross and government relief agencies on the amateur radio frequencies.

The more than (###) Hams in (*your city or county*) are men and women who are students, retirees, business owners, community volunteers and employees of local businesses, government and social service agencies. Hams not only assist during disasters, they're behind the scenes coordinating communications at community events and during severe weather alerts, sending messages for troops overseas to families at home, and practicing skills during training exercises. Remember they are volunteers and they are there if you need them.



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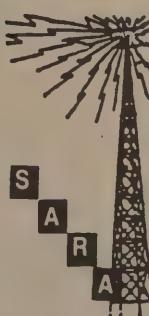
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CLASSIFIED

Standard classified ad - 10 cents/word, \$3.00 minimum charge. Commercial classified ad - 15 cents/word, \$5.00 minimum. See submission details below.

Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

K4IA - Ed Roller, Punta Gorda
KA1DV - David Adamy, Utah, formerly Lake City
K2AAA - Donald J. S. Merten, Port St. Lucie
W3GF - Merle E. Turner, Silver Springs
WB4UMT - Ernest Alfred Phinney Sr., Zephyrhills
KA4IFM - Kenneth E. Shull, Jacksonville
W4REV - Richard H. Mosher
AE4LL - Floyd H. Jones, Trenton
W4BVE - Alan C. Hinshelwood, Ft. Walton Bch
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KI4NN - Jimmie D. Mathis, Panama City
KB4PLR - Jack A. Keefer, Old Town
WA4PUA - Donald W. Combs, Ellenton
K8ONV - Sally Mary Ryden, Englewood
KF0FF - Ralph L. Woodward, Longwood

FOR SALE - Heil boom set wired for Kenwood - \$45.00. 40 meter off-center-fed wire antenna complete with Radio Works 4:1 balun and line isolator - \$30.00. All info to operate the OCF on harmonic bands. Neil Spencer, W4PC. 8953 Antigua Dr., Largo FL 33777. Ph: (813) 391-9651.

FOR SALE - Ameritron AL811 amplifier, like new - \$400.00. Will ship. Russ Dorcas, WA8CDT. 423 Pauline St., Sebring FL 33872.

FOR SALE - Kenwood TS940/AT mint with manual - \$1250. Matching speaker - \$80.00. Service manual - \$27.00. SB-200, was completely updated, w/manual, new 572B's also - \$350.00. Lou Perlmuttler, W4LP. 437 Golden Isles Drive, Hallandale FL 33009. Ph: (954) 458-6094.

FOR SALE - Henry 2K3 console linear pair 3_500Z, 80 thru 10 meters, 1500 W PEP - \$750.00

FOR SALE - Hammarlund HXL 1 Linear, converted for pair 8875. Needs new elect. caps. in power supply - \$325.00

FOR SALE - AZDEN 2 meter FM PCS 4000 complete with mike, manual org. pkg. mint - \$175.00

FOR SALE - 2 meter linear 100 W out for 10 W in w/matching power supply combo. Both - \$150.00

FOR SALE - 2 meter RF switched M.M. preamp never used in org. carton. GASFET - \$60.00

Come see the above in Englewood, FL but call me first. Frank, W4AMJ - 941-474-5697

NOFARS

6th in Nation

The North Florida Amateur Radio Society (Jacksonville) finished 6th nationwide out of 600 entries of the two transmitter-emergency power (2A) category in the ARRL Field Day emergency preparedness exercise. The club accumulated 9144 points with the two main stations logging over 1300 contacts by WA4Bs SSB transmitter and 969 CW QSOs by Ray Barnes, AB4XA and his crew. The 969 CW contacts shattered a club record.

NOFARS 2A total was the highest in Florida spotlighting their capabilities during an actual emergency. Field Day simulates the aftermath of an emergency. All set-up starts from scratch, 24 hours prior to the contest period and no permanent antenna structures are allowed.

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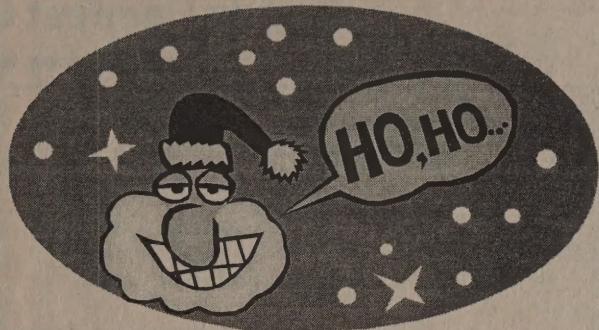
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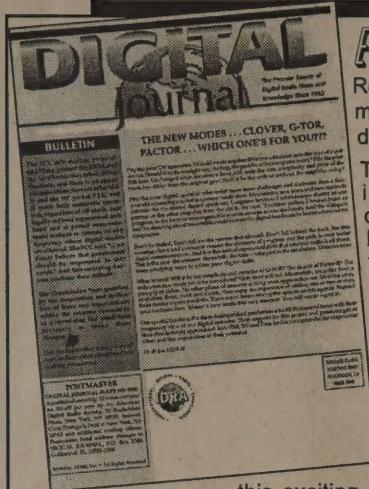
Florida Hamfest Update - ****, 1996

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES						
Dec 7	Okeechobee	Agriculture Center Bldg on US 441 1.5 mi north of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.195 INFO: Al, AD4RZ (941) 467-0516	Feb 8	Pensacola	Bayfront Municiple Auditorium Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925 INFO: Bill, WA4YRN (904) 476-8537			
Dec 7	Ocala	Booster Stadium N 36th Ave 1 mile N of SR 40 Talk-in on 146.970 INFO: Mario, N4TSV (352) 245-9514	Feb 15/16	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds 4300 W. Colonial Way Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Ken, KD4JQR (407) 961-2465			
Dec 7	Miami	FREE! At Opa-Locka Airport In the BTTR Hanger Talk-in on 146.550 (simplex) INFO: Louis, N4LDG (305) 840-8446	Feb 22	Brooksville	VFW Hall in Spring Hill Talk-in on 146.715 INFO: Lee, WA3YMV (352) 799-1638			
Dec 14	Lake City	FL National Guard Armory on Lake Jeffery Road Talk-in on 145.490 INFO: Colen, WA5RKR (904) 755-7969	Mar 8	Englewood	Tringali Community Center on SR 776 in E. Englewood Talk-in on 146.700 INFO: George, KA4JKY(941) 697-3445			
1997								
Jan 4/5	Fort Myers	Southwest Florida Hamfest at Cape Coral American Legion on 47th Terrace, Cape Coral Talk-in on 147.345 INFO: Jim, KQ4OR (941) 997-6423	Mar 22	Stuart	FREE! At Martin County Fairgrounds A1A south of Stuart Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Dave, KE4AMW (561) 288-7100			
Jan 11/12	Sarasota	Robards Sports Arena 3000 Fruitville Rd Talk-in on 146.910 & 444.925 INFO: Sam, KE4BXF (813) 922-4591	Mar 22	Sebring	National Guard Armory on U.S. 27, 6 mi N of Sebring Talk-in on 147.270/145.330 INFO: Roy, KE4JCT (941) 382-4607			
Jan 18	Crystal River	National Guard Armory Talk-on on 146.955 INFO: Chad, W3IKO (352) 746-1299	Mar 29	Fanning Springs	Livestock Pavillion Fairgrounds SR 26 & US 19 Talk-in on ?? INFO: Glenda, K4KRU (904) 542-3033			
Jan 19	Pinellas Park	Benefit Boy's & Girl's Club 7790 61st St North Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Mike, KC4TEX (813) 823-4251	*****					
Feb 1/2	Miami	Dade County Expo Center SW 112th Ave & Coral Way Talk-in on 146.760 or 146.925 INFO: Evelyn, W4WYR(305) 642-4139	HELP AVOID CONFLICTS - GET YOUR DATES IN EARLY! PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND WHO TO CALL FOR INFO!					
Feb 8	Arcadia	Desoto County Fairgrounds US 17, 1/2 mi south of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.075 INFO: Doug, KN4YT (941) 494-5070	Packet Address: KB4VOL @ KB4VOL Army Mars Call: AAT4RV Mail: Bill Britton, KB4VOL 8703 S.E. Jardin St. Hobe Sound, FL 33455 E-Mail: kb4vol@juno.com					

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